

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Number: WA-II-121

Name: Geedysville Bd over Little Antietam Crk (WS657)

The bridge referenced herein was inventoried by the Maryland State Highway Administration as part of the Historic Bridge Inventory, and SHA provided the Trust with eligibility determinations in February 2001. The Trust accepted the Historic Bridge Inventory on April 3, 2001. The bridged received the following determination of eligibly.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility Recommended <u> X </u>	Eligibility Not Recommended <u> </u>
Criteria: <u> A </u> <u> B </u> <u> C </u> <u> D </u>	Considerations: <u> A </u> <u> B </u> <u> C </u> <u> D </u> <u> E </u> <u> F </u> <u> G </u> <u>None</u>
Comments: _____ _____ _____	
Reviewer, OPS: <u> Anne E. Bruder </u>	Date: <u> 3 April 2001 </u>
Reviewer, NR Program: <u> Peter E. Kurtze </u>	Date: <u> 3 April 2001 </u>

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Historic Bridge Inventory
Maryland State Highway Administration
Maryland Historical Trust

MHT No. WA-II-121Name and SHA No. Pry's Mill Bridge (W5652)**Location:**Street/Road Name and Number: Keedysville Road over Little Antietam CreekCity/Town: Keedysville _____ vicinityCounty: WashingtonOwnership: ☐ State ☒ County ☐ Municipal ☐ OtherThis bridge projects over: ☐ Road ☐ Railway ☒ Water ☐ LandIs the bridge located within a designated district: ☐ yes ☒ no☐ NR listed district ☐ NR determined eligible district☐ locally designated ☐ other

Name of District _____

Bridge Type:☐ Timber Bridge☐ Beam Bridge ☐ Truss-Covered ☐ Trestle ☐ Timber-and-Concrete☒ Stone Arch☐ Metal Truss Bridge☐ Movable Bridge☐ Swing ☐ Bascule Single Leaf ☐ Bascule Multiple Leaf☐ Vertical Lift ☐ Retractable ☐ Pontoon☐ Metal Girder☐ Rolled Girder ☐ Rolled Girder Concrete Encased☐ Plate Girder ☐ Plate Girder Concrete Encased☐ Metal Suspension☐ Metal Arch☐ Metal Cantilever☐ Concrete☐ Concrete Arch ☐ Concrete Slab ☐ Concrete Beam ☐ Rigid Frame☐ Other Type Name _____

Description:**Describe Setting:**

Pry's Mill Bridge carries Keedysville Road over Little Antietam Creek, just west of Keedysville. Little Antietam Creek flows north-south at this location, while Keedysville Road runs roughly east-west. This bridge is situated to the east of Hitt's or Pry's Mill (Maryland Historical Trust site WA-II-120), Hitt's House (Maryland Historical Trust site WA-II-252), and Hitt's Bridge (Maryland Historical Trust site WA-II-122). The Hitt's Mill and House complex is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Several modern dwellings are located immediately to the northeast and northwest of the bridge.

Describe Superstructure and Substructure:

(Discuss points identified in Context Addendum, Section C)

This two-span stone arch bridge is constructed of coursed local fieldstone. It measures 127 feet in total length. The arches, each 30 feet wide, are lined with carefully cut voussoirs exhibiting no obvious keystone. The single pier is pointed on the upstream elevation and rounded on the downstream side, but rests atop a modern stepped concrete footing like those supporting the abutments, installed no doubt as a result of lowered water levels of the creek. The wing walls are straight on the northern side of the bridge but flare on the southern side. The roadway is 12 feet wide and supports a single lane of traffic.

Discuss major alterations:

Modifications to this bridge include the above described concrete footings, as well as a concrete cap along the original stone parapets. Evidence of modern repointing is visible, and work on the wing walls has apparently been performed previously. According to the Washington County Engineer's Office, this bridge was rehabilitated in 1986.

History:

When Built: *unknown (after 1835)*

Why Built: *unknown*

Who Built: *unknown*

Who Designed: *unknown*

Why Altered: *stabilization of structure*

Was this bridge built as part of an organized bridge building campaign: *unknown*

Surveyor Analysis:

This bridge may have NR significance for association with:

☒ A Events ☐ B Person

☒ C Engineering/Architectural Character

Was the bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history?

As with many stone arch bridges in Washington County, Pry's Mill Bridge was erected near the site of a mill, in this case Hitt's Mill, also known as Pry's Mill, which operated from the 18th through the early 20th centuries. Milling and agriculture were the primary industries of the county. A large number of mills were built along significant waterways such as Antietam Creek and Conococheague Creek, as well as near smaller tributaries. Many of the region's major roadways led to and serviced these mill sites, which also served as centers for trade and social meetings. Bridges such as Pry's Mill Bridge facilitated travel to and from these mills.

Although no records have been discovered to indicate the exact year or builder of this bridge, a document found within the Road and Land records of Washington County (Volume I, Folio 197) discloses that the road connecting Keedysville and the Hitt Bridge was relocated to its present alignment in 1835. No mention of a bridge to span Little Antietam Creek was included in this documentation, but the fact that the road was built in 1835 indicates that the bridge must post-date this year.

When the bridge was built and/or given a major alteration, did it have a significant impact on the growth and development of the area?

With its key position in proximity to a mill, Pry's Mill Bridge played an important role in stimulating transportation and commerce throughout the area. Its presence helped promote growth and development on both a local and regional level.

Is the bridge located in an area which may be eligible for historic designation and would the bridge add to or detract from the historic and visual character of the possible district?

Pry's Mill Bridge is located to the east of Hitt's or Pry's Mill and Hitt's House. This complex is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Although this bridge was not included in the inventory at the time the complex was nominated, it nevertheless is an associated component of the group, and would add to both the historic and visual character of the district.

Is the bridge a significant example of its type?

Even though Pry's Mill Bridge has been slightly modified, it remains a significant example of the stone arch bridge.

Does the bridge retain integrity of the important elements described in the Context Addendum?

This bridge retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Despite the modifications described above, the Pry's Mill Bridge retains the integrity of nearly all of its original components, including the stone arch rings and barrels, spandrel walls, abutments, wing walls, and piers. In general, the bridge is in good to excellent condition.

Is the bridge a significant example of the work of the manufacturer, designer, and/or engineer and why?

Although more than 30 stone bridges were built in Washington County, with at least 24 still extant, no two are exactly the same. Thus, while the builder of this bridge is unknown, Pry's Mill Bridge is still potentially eligible under Criterion C with regard to manufacture and design.

Should this bridge be given further study before significance analysis is made and why?

Pry's Mill Bridge has been well documented in both written and photographic form. In 1975, it was included in a comprehensive survey of Washington County's stone arch bridges that culminated with the preparation of National Register nomination forms for the bridges. These nomination forms have never been submitted to the National Register. It is presently listed in the Maryland Historical Trust's Inventory. No further study is recommended.

Provide black and white prints and negatives and color slides of bridge, details, and setting labeled according to NR Bulletin 16A and Maryland Supplement to Bulletin 16A.

Provide a photocopy USGS map illustrating the location of the bridge.

Surveyor:

Name:

Alice Crampton/Julie Abell

Date:

11/29/94

Organization:

Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.

Telephone:

(703) 591-7575

Address:

10521 Rosehaven Street
Fairfax, Virginia 22030-2899

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

MAGI #2206923417

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON: Pry's Mill Bridge					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: Little Antietam Creek and Keedysville Road					
CITY OR TOWN: Keedysville					
STATE Maryland			COUNTY: Washington		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Private		<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious			
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Board of County Commissioners of Washington County					
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex					
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown			STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered < 50%			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
				<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pry's Mill Bridge carries the Keedysville-Bakersville Road across the Little Antietam Creek just west of Keedysville and near Pry's Mill (WA-II-120) and the Hitt Bridge (WA-II-122).

The bridge is a two-arched span constructed of coursed local fieldstone. The pair of openings are lined with carefully cut voussoirs. The pier supporting the arches terminates with a pointed projection at its upstream face while a rounded projection finishes the downstream elevation of the pier. Concrete has replaced the original coping. There is also evidence of relatively recent pointing and of new work on the wing walls.

No records have been found which indicate the year the Pry's Mill Bridge was built or by whom. However, a document among the Road and Land records of Washington County (Volume I, Folio 197) reveals that the section of the road between Keedysville and the Hitt Bridge was relocated to its present site in 1835. The document and accompanying diagram do not indicate that a bridge was to be constructed over the Little Antietam Creek at the time the new road was plotted.

The bridge appears to be in good condition and is open to daily traffic.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1-A

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pry's Mill Bridge is significant for its architecture, for its contribution to commerce and transportation in Washington County and is an example of the engineering abilities of the early bridge builders. The structure also has military significance because of its proximity to the site of the Civil War Battle of the Antietam which was fought in September of 1862.

Architecturally, the Pry's Mill Bridge is an example of nearly thirty stone bridges and culverts in Washington County. Most of these structures were built between 1820 and 1850 and appear to reflect a major trend in building with stone in the Cumberland Valley. The first stone bridge in the county, erected in 1819, carried the National Pike across the Conococheague Creek. According to historians, stone bridges because of their greater durability were used for the National Pike at the insistence of the Maryland legislature.

The Pry's Mill Bridge is also significant for its contribution to commerce and transportation in Washington County. Like many of the county's stone bridges, Pry's Mill Bridge was built near a mill. Milling was an important business in the area, contributing significantly to the early economy. With the prominence of mills in the county, many of the early roads led to these places of business. It is possible that Pry's Mill Bridge was constructed shortly after the section of Keedysville Road from the Hitt Bridge to Keedysville was relocated in 1835. The bridge would have facilitated transportation to and from the mill and thus have aided commerce in Washington County.

The engineering abilities of the early bridge builders of the Cumberland Valley are exemplified by Pry's Mill Bridge. The bridge has stood, presumably, since the second quarter of the 19th century carrying daily traffic. It thus remains as a monument to the engineering skills of its builder. Associated with the Washington County bridges are such builders as John and George Weaver, Silas Harry, Charles Wilson and the Lloyds, a Pennsylvania firm.

Pry's Mill Bridge, located at the edge of the Antietam Battlefield is important for its association with the Battle. Union troops camped in the area on the eve of the encounter and numerous nearby sites were used as hospitals during and after the Battle.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hays, Helen Ashe, The Antietam and Its Bridges, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1910.
 Washington County Road and Land Records, Volume I.
 Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, exhibition catalog, "Bridges: Our Legacy in Stone," Hagerstown, Md.: August-September, 1965.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

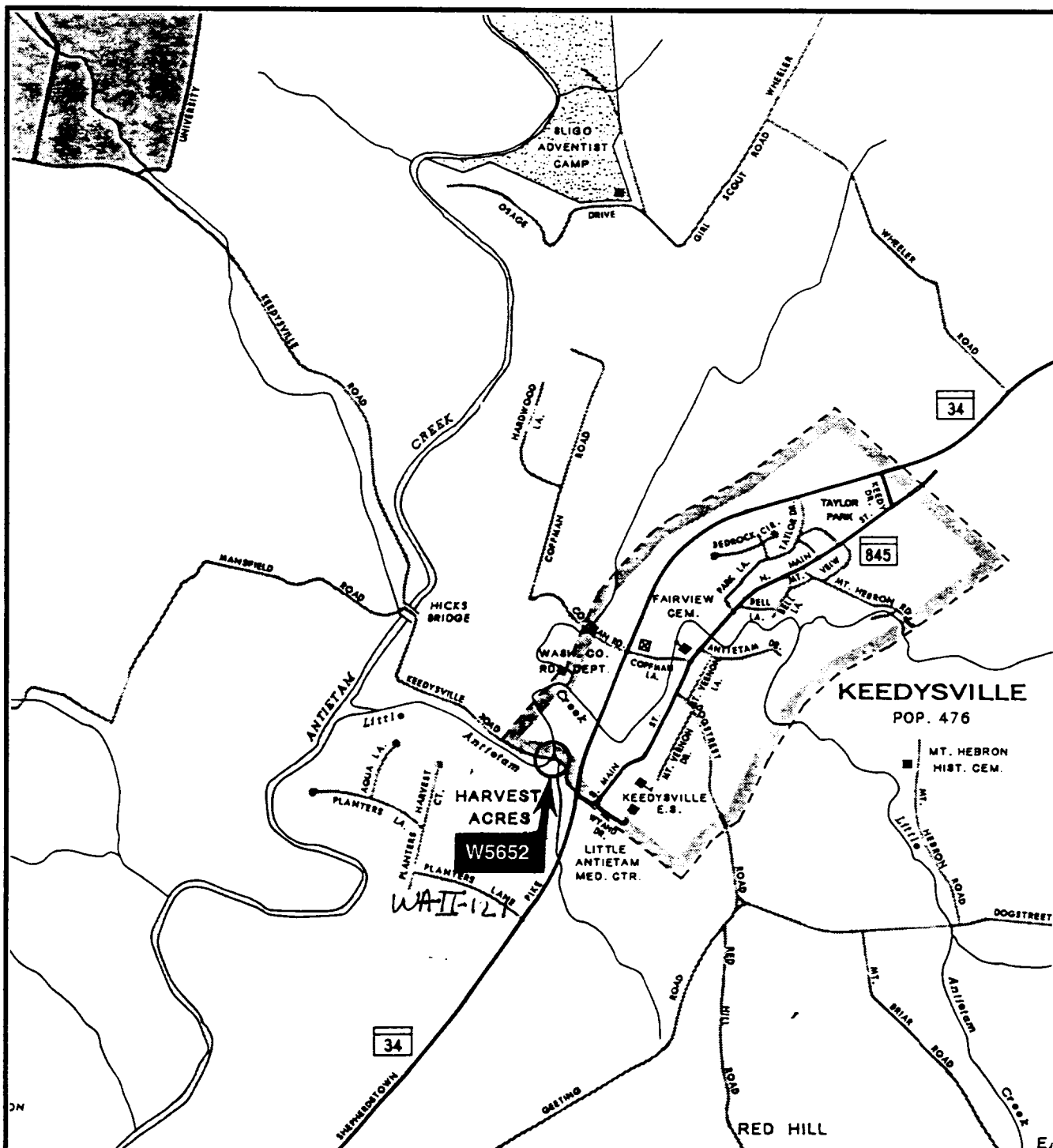
NAME AND TITLE: Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant		DATE May, 1975
ORGANIZATION Washington County Historical Sites Survey		
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex		
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown	STATE Maryland	

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

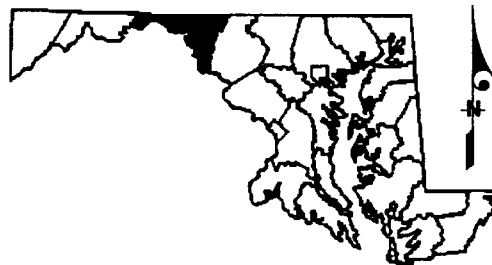
National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

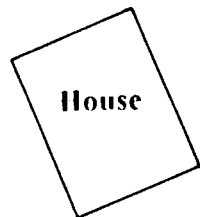


Washington County - Bridge Number W5652
 Keedysville Road over Little Antietam Creek
 (Pry's Mill Bridge)

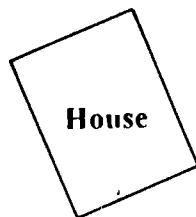
Scale 0 1000 2000 feet
 0 0.5 kilometer



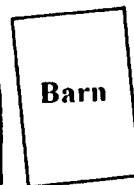
IV-388



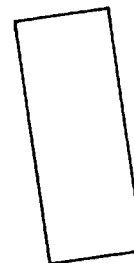
House



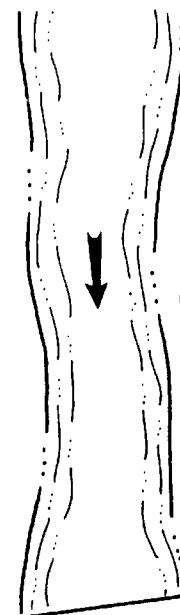
House



Barn

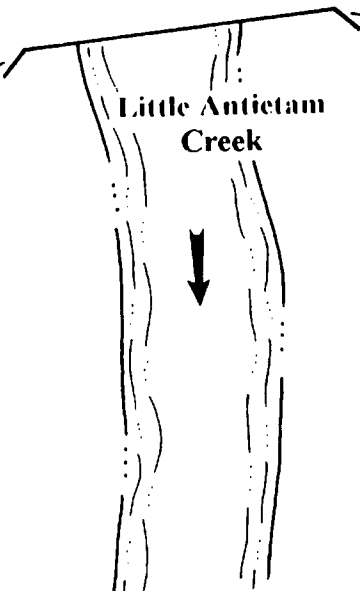


House



Bridge W5652

Keedysville Road



Little Antietam
Creek



NOT TO SCALE

WA-II-121

1590 000 FEET (MD.)

265000m E.

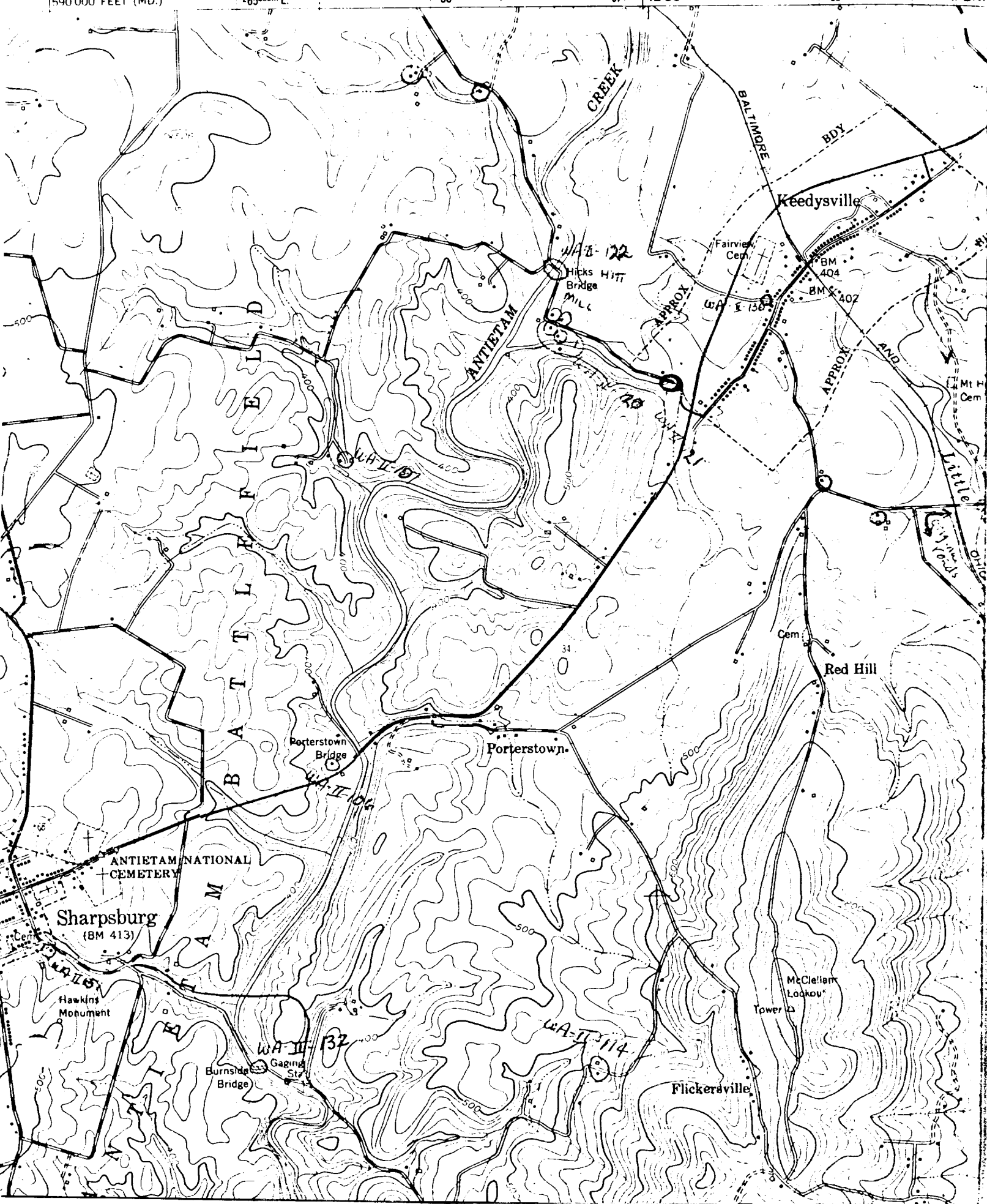
266

267

42°30'

268

(FUNK)





21A-I-121

Pry's Mill Bridge (WS652)

Washington County, Maryland

Julie Abell

11/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

South elevation

2 of 6



WA 10121

Py's Mill Bridge (w5652)

Washington County, Maryland

Julie Abell

11/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

South elevation

1 of 6



WA-II-121

Pry's Mill Bridge (W5652)

Washington County, Maryland

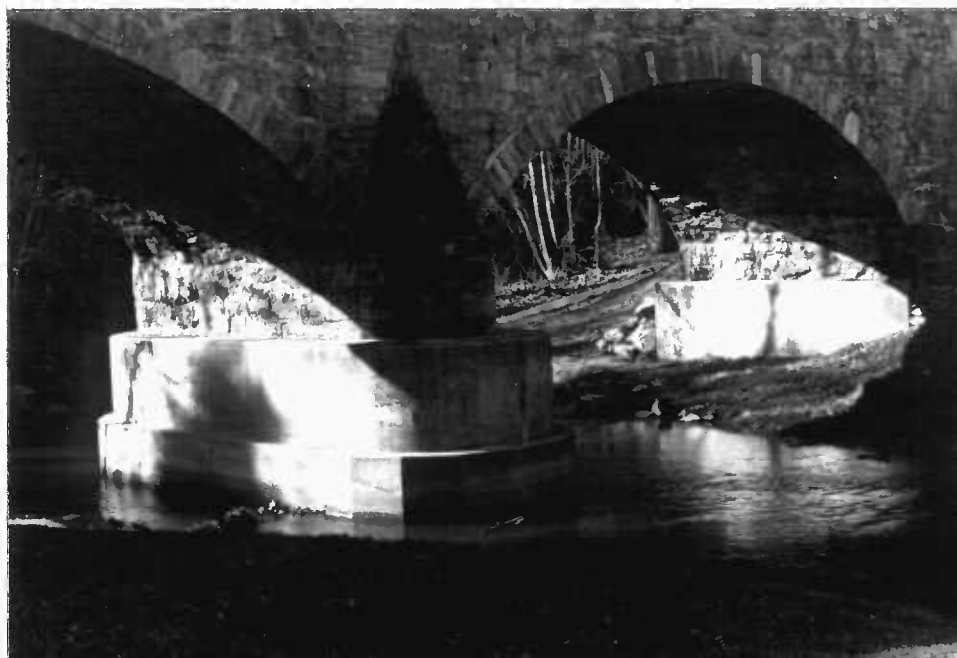
Julie Abell

11/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

North elevation

3 of 6



WA-II-121

Pry's Mill Bridge (W5652)

Washington County, Maryland

Julie Abell

11/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

North elevation, detail of concrete footing

- of 6



11-11-121

Poy's Mill Bridge (W5652)

Washington County, Maryland

Julie Abell

11/94

Maryland State Highway
Administration

Approach looking northwest

5 of 6



WA-4-121

Pry's Mill Bridge (R. 565.2)

Washington County, Maryland

Julie Abell

11/94

Maryland State Highway

Administration

Approach looking Southeast

6 of 6



10/20/00
1
10/20/00
1
10/20/00
1

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY